

NSC BRIEFING

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THE HUNGARIAN REFUGEE SITUATION

- I. As of 1 May, 174,179 Hungarian refugees had entered Austria. Of this number, 135,255 had gone on to other Western countries and 6,014 had returned to Hungary. (Leaves 32,910)
 - A. Austrian government reports 34,000 refugees still in Austria, but US Embassy believes number is closer to 31,500.
 - B. Ambassador Thompson reports that the Austrian government has said it could integrate up to 30,000 refugees in Austria.
 - C. However, on 18 April, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees reported that ^{only} about 8,000 were willing to remain.
- II. On 7 May, refugees at Camp Sienzenheim, where 2,400 registered for emigration to the US were held, organized a hunger strike protesting imminent loss of opportunity to emigrate to US.
 - A. Strike ended after Mrs. Roosevelt talked to the camp inmates^{25X1} on 10 May.

strike may be followed by more wide-
spread demonstrations. possibility
of a mass return to Hungary.

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25X1

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1. Although the Hungarian general amnesty for returnees expired on 31 March, the regime asserts that amnesties are now granted on an individual basis.
2. Actual disposition of returnees is not clear, but regime has promised that all persons, including returnees, guilty of counterrevolutionary crimes will be punished.

Where have the refugees gone?